

Appl. No. 09/788,208

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Elections/Restrictions

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner requires a restriction to one of the following groups of claims under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 75-103 and 138-163
- II. Claims 104-119
- III. Claims 120 - 137
- IV. Claims 164 - 169

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In response to the Examiner's requisition under 35 U.S.C. 121, Applicant elects Group I with traverse, claims 75 to 103 and 138 to 163 being readable thereon, for prosecution on the merits.

Accordingly, claims 104 to 137 and 164 to 169 have been withdrawn from the present application. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue any or all of the non-elected claims in one or more divisional applications that may be filed prior to the issuance of the patent of the present application.

In accordance with 35 CFR 1.143 the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the Election/Restriction requirement. The Examiner is required to identify the undue burden in searching all of the claims. Applicant submits that the Examiner would be exposed to the claims of Groups II, III and IV when searching the claims of Group I. Accordingly, the Examiner would not be faced with undue burden to also search and examine the claims of Groups II, III and IV. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner examine the claims of Groups II, III and IV along with the claims of elected Group I.

If any objections remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned with a view to resolving such objections as expeditiously as possible.

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In view of the foregoing, early favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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Date: March 7, 2006

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